Specifics of geological composition, geochemistry and geochronology of rocks from the Kresty alkaline-ultrabasic massif (Maimecha-Kotui province, Polar Siberia)

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Specifics of geological composition, geochemistry and 
geochronology of rocks from the Kresty alkaline-ultrabasic 
massif (Maimecha-Kotui province, Polar Siberia)

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Abstract. In this work, we demonstrate new data that allows us to accurate geochronological 
ranges of formation of the Kresty alkaline-ultrabasic massif, which is considered to be a satellite 
of the Gulinian giant pluton. We also interpreted geological, geochemical and isotope-geochemical data obtained earlier for major varieties of this volcanic-plutonic association taking 
into account new geochronological results, as well as considered new aspects/information on 
matter source of alkaline-ultrabasic massifs from this province. One of the main aspects is 
interaction of Siberian super plume matter with hosting substrate of Siberian craton continental 
crust.

1. Introduction
The Maimecha-Kotui province (MKP) is one of the unique geological objects in Polar Siberia. Its 
geotectonic position is caused by formation of continental Khatanga rift at the boundary between 
Siberian Craton and Taimyr orogen. One of the important structural elements of its spatial localization 
is transform fault complicated by large gravity anomaly with its center in Gulinian giant pluton. Many 
authors think that opening of Ob-Zaisansk Ocean was initiated by local intrusion of plume material in 
this particular point/location [1]. However, we think that this episode/event is only a local “finger 
plume”, which promoted formation of a unique mineral province. Such transform fault of Khatanga 
rift system controls one more large ore node, which corresponds to Norilsk-Talnakh copper-nickel 
deposits too. What makes the Kresty province unique is that it is spatially adjacent to Gulinian pluton, 
whose sizes exceed all known intrusive bodies in the Maimecha-Kotui province. Main intrusive 
phases/stages of the Kresty Massif are represented by ultramafic rocks with normal alkalinity 
(olivinites, veprilites, pyroxenites, and its ore-bearing kinds), as well as melilitic rocks like kugdites 
and melilitolites and monticellitolites. Among dykes we see nepheline and alkaline syenites, as well as 
alkaline granosyenites and granites. We have obtained new geochronological data on perovskites and 
zircons from these rock varieties. These data confirmed its formation at Permian-Triassic boundary. 
An important aspect of this massif formation is industrial concentrations of noble metals (gold and 
platinoids up to 20 g/t), which are found in some rock varieties undergone secondary metasomatic 
changes. This aspect is extremely important in further studying of the Kresty Massif.

2. Geological setting and internal structure of studied object
Composition of the Kresty volcanic-plutonic structure (KVPS) is determined by the spatial 
superposition of volcanic fluxes of melanephelinite, intrusive bodies of olivinite-pyroxenite and 
melilitolite-monticellitolite series, and the dykes of thachydolerites, subalkaline syenites and 
granosyenites, alkaline picrites and lamprophyres. By geophysical data, the Kresty Massif has a round 
shape in plane about 6 km in diameter with a steep dip of contacts (Fig. 1) [2]. Like the Gulinian 
pluton, the massif is covered over 2/3 of its area by Cenozoic deposits of the Khatanga depression.
The bulk of its volume is formed by ultramafic rocks with normal alkalinity. Melilite and monticellite rocks are located over the periphery of the olivinite core and form a series of small autonomous bodies. Their later introduction is confirmed by active contact affect onto ultramafic rocks, which led to production of hybrid variations like melilite and perovskite-enriched olivinites and uncomphagrites. The dyke derivatives break through the massif rocks of zonal extension along the boundary of the plutonic and volcanic associations.

![Figure 1. Scheme of geological structure of the Kresty Massif. The inset shows the geographical position of the Maimecha-Kotui province (MKP) and the Kresty volcanoplutonic structure (KVPS).](image)

1- loose deposits, KZ; 2 - 9. - KVPS rocks, MZ dykes of alkalic syenites and granosyenites (2), of trachydolerites and trachyandesites (3), kurgites and melilitholites (4), monticelliteolites (5), banded olivinite-wehlite-clino.pyroxenite complex (6), olivinites (7), melanephelinites (8), and local fluxes of melanephelinite clastolavas (9); 10 – chertaruel within the host effusive mass; 11 – geological boundaries; 12 – bound areas between petrophical variations within intrusive bodies; 13 – faults; 15 – KVPS boundaries by gravity data; 16 – boreholes and their Nos; 16 – ditches and their Nos.

By their petrochemical parameters, the KVPS rocks conform to those of tholeiite (dunites, wehrlite, and clino.pyroxenites), subalkaline (trachydolerites, trachyandesites, and syenitoids), and alkaline series (melilolites, monticelliteolites, nephelinites, and alkaline picrites), mainly of potassium–sodium specialization. These rocks, as all MKP magmatites, are characterized by high concentrations of most of trace elements comparable to numbers in oceanic island basalts (OIB), which confirms plume nature of magmatism in the province. Heterogeneity of the products of tholeiite and alkaline series is well pronounced in the behavior of the most magmatophilic elements (Nb, Ta, Th, Sr, LREE) concentrated mainly in alkaline melts. The content of REE and La/Yb ratio increase subsequently in series from olivinites and wehrlites to pyroxenites, nephelinites, and melilolites, reaching maximum in monticelliteolites. The dykes of syenites and trachydolerites show moderate concentrations of lanthanides.
comparable to ultrabasic rocks of normal alkalinity, which negates thereby the model of differentiation from a single parent melt. The fractionation degree of rare elements increases in following series: “volcanites→ dyke formation → main intrusive phases”, at the same time obvious negative anomalies of Rb, Ba, Sr, Nb, Zr, Hf, and Ti appear in olivine-rich variations.

Geochemical heterogeneity of the KVPS rocks is also traced in the parameters of the neodymium and strontium isotope composition, whose variations indicate autonomous matter sources for associations of normal and high alkalinity [3]. However, a valid Sm–Nd isochrone line was obtained only for the whole rock compositions of olivine, wherlites, and two pyroxenites, yielding the age of $251 \pm 20$ Ma ($\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(T) = +2.0$). Alkaline ultramafic rocks show higher primary $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios ($\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(T) = +2.4 \div 3.1$), whereas decreased values of this parameter (from $-0.6$ to $-15.9$) are typical for trachyandesites and syenitoids. The probable heterogeneity of the sources of rock associations is also shown in the values of the $T_{\text{DM}}$ model age. Compared to the small intrusions of alkaline syenites ($\sim 2.36$ Ga), younger dates were found for melanephelenites and monticellitolites ($\sim 590$–$620$ Ma). The isotope composition of strontium shows a wider variability with $I_0$ values ranging from $0.7035$–$0.7037$ (for nephelinites, melilitolites, and monticellitolites) and $0.7038$–$0.7041$ (for olivinites, wherlites, and pyroxeniteto 0.705–0.708 (for trachydolerites and alkaline syenites). The ratios of oxygen isotopes in whole-rock compositions and in rock-forming pyroxene ($\delta^{18}\text{O} = +1.1 \div 4.9 \%$) suggest considerable interaction of the rocks with meteor waters permeating probably as deep as 500 m.

3. Analytical techniques

New U-Pb isotopic data on zircon grains was studied. It represents two intrusive phases of the Kresty massif, including one of the main rock types like kugdites and vein types of rocks like alkaline syenites. Zircons from this object were analyzed with SHRIMP-II microprobe at the Russian Geological Research Institute named after A.P. Karpinsky (St. Peterburg) using a standard technique with a spot diameter of 18 µm. The internal structure of mineral grains was determined with cathodoluminescent images taken on ABT55 scanning electron microscope in a usual operating mode. Data was processed with SQUID software. The U/Pb ratios were normalized to the value of 0.0668 of the TEMORA standard zircon. The errors of isotope ratio and age measurements were within ±1σ, and the errors in calculation of concordant ages and intersections with concordia were within ±2σ. The plots with concordia were built using the ISOPLOT/Ex software.

4. Results and Discussion

Our study has given new proof of these very short-term intrusive events being connected to Siberian plume. Our new geochronological data is demonstrated in Table 1 -2 and Fig. 2 -3.
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<td>0.2290</td>
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(2) Common Pb corrected by assuming $^{206}\text{Pb} / ^{207}\text{U}$ age-concordance.
Kugdite ages were determined on perovskite grains, which is one of the main accessory minerals of this rock. Despite small error, the age (249±3.4 Ma) corresponds fully to the Paleozoic-Mesozoic boundary. More accurate dating was obtained from zircons for another rock variety (alkaline syenite type), which represents one of the latest phases of dyke complex formation in this intrusive massif (Table 2, Figure 3).

Figure 2. U-Pb plot for kugdites of the Kresty massif.
Table 2. U-Pb data for alkaline syenites of the Kresty massif

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<th>Spot</th>
<th>Spot</th>
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<th>ppm U</th>
<th>ppm Th</th>
<th>ppm (^{235})Th/(^{238})U</th>
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<th>(1) (^{207})Pb/(^{206})Pb ± %</th>
<th>(1) (^{207})Pb/(^{206})Pb ± %</th>
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Errors are 1-sigma; Pb, and Pb* indicate the common and radiogenic portions, respectively.

Error in Standard calibration was 0.29% (not included in above errors but required when comparing data from different mounts).

(1) Common Pb corrected using measured 
\(^{204}\)Pb.
Ages of alkaline syenites determined on accessory zircon grains turned out to be more accurate, considering range of possible errors. Real age values correspond to the same values of $252 \pm 1.0$ Ma (Fig. 3).

![Figure 3](image-url)

**Figure 3.** The plot for alkaline syenites of the Kresty Massif.

Patterns in isotopic evolution of KVPS rocks are obviously shown on $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(T)$-$\varepsilon_{\text{Sr}}(T)$ diagram, where composition points of petrographic varieties of Maimecha-Kotui province form composition field expanding in a fan-like pattern from moderately depleted mantle of HIMU and PREMA type into the area of enriched sources EMI and EMII. Boundaries between them coincide with lines of mixing of lower crust (LC) and upper crust (UC) matters (mixing in ratios from LC:UC = 10:1 to LC:UC = 1:10) [3]. At the same time, isotope compositions of tholeiitic and alkaline magma products show noticeable discreteness only at the base of the Mesozoic volcanogenic mass/thickness (Pravoboyarsk, Onkuchansk and Tyvankitsk series) or in separate intrusive bodies (Kugda massif) distant from assumed “finger plume” center. As they get closer to the “finger plume” center, composition fields of magmatic rocks move closer to each other and subsequently move towards area of depleted mantle substrates. Similar variations of isotope composition with certain level of Sr enrichment are also seen in flood basalts from Norilsk region [9]. We can assume that it might indicate lower permeability of mantle matter and its interaction with brines of sedimentary cover of the platform.

By their isotope composition, volcanic and plutonic KVPS varieties take intermediate position between their analogues in the Gulinian and Kugda massifs in a relatively narrow contrast range between the alkaline and tholeiite derivatives. This is quite consistent with the scale of their spatial distance from the probable center of “finger plume”. The most complete coincidence of isotope...
parameters was observed in ultrabasic and alkaline rocks, as well as in carbonatites of the Gulinian pluton. The approximating point of convergence of variation trends conforms to the values of $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(T) = +5$ and $\varepsilon_{\text{Sr}}(T) = -15$, which are close to the characteristics of the PREMA source [5]. Taking into account extreme depths (>200 km) of the generation of primary alkaline–ultrabasic MKP melts [6], the leading role of the homogenous PREMA-type mantle substrate [10] in the processes of their generation seems to be the most valid. This conclusion may be confirmed by the parameters of lead isotope composition in basalts of the Putorana Plateau representing the geochemical peculiarity of the prevailing component of the Siberian (North Asian) superplume [1]. Despite the fact that the $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(T)$ and $\varepsilon_{\text{Sr}}(T)$ values in these rocks indicate a chondritic matter source, the $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ (18.3), $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ (15.5), and $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ (38.0) ratios conform precisely to the PREMA matter. A deviation from the defined trend was registered exclusively in the late small intrusions (dolerites, syenites, and granites) formed under active interaction with the crust matter, or with its direct melting. A similar model of the formation of hypabyssal rocks of similar Sr and Nd isotope parameters is accepted for the Early-Mesozoic A-type granitoids, as well as for the lamproites from Taimyr Peninsula and Altai Mountains formed simultaneously with final stages North Asian superplume evolution [6].

Thus, the example of the Kresty volcanoplutonic structure raises a question whether or not two or more plume sources participated in formation of the studied rock associations from the Maimecha–Kotui province. Evidently, a single mantle matter existed conforming to PREMA matter in isotope composition. The multiplicity observed for magmatic complexes may have been caused by different scale plume–lithosphere interactions during exhumation/raise of melts along the Yenisei–Khatanga rift zone in the northern periphery of Siberian craton. Due to thermal activation of crust under the plume impact, the role of the mantle component in magmatic evolution decreased subsequently/successively [7].

The new data that we obtained proves “short-term” formation of intrusive complexes within Maimecha-Kotui province and their temporal correlation with volcanic eruptions in this region. Close ages for alkaline phase of the Kresty Massif and dykes completing its formation suggest short-term magmatic events, which defined one of the largest changes in organic world of our planet at Paleozoic-Mesozoic boundary.

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References